GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:321
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2000
COTTON TECHNOLOGY MISSION/COTTON BOARD
CHINTAMAN NAVSHA WANAGA;HARIBHAU MAHALE

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched Cotton Technology Mission to improve the yield and quality of cotton:

(b) if so, the salient features of the mission;

(c) the target fixed for production of cotton under this Mission and achievement made in the country particularly in Maharashtra;

(d) the steps taken for attracting the farmers to cotton cultivation more progressively;

(e) whether the Governemnt propose to set up a Cotton Board on the lines of Tobacco and Tea Board; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR)

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.
STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS

(a) TO

(f) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.321 TO BE ANSWERED ON 16TH AUGUST, 2000 IN THE LOK SABHA

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. In order to improve the yield and the quality of cotton, the Government of India has approved the implementation of a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Technology Mission on Cotton in January, 2000.The Mission consists of four Mini-Missions.The Mini-Mission-I on research is to be dealt by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for evolving newer and better varieties/technologies suited to different agro-climatic conditions of the country for improving the yield and quality of cotton.

The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is responsible for the implementation of Mini-Mission-II for enhancing production through the modification of on-going Scheme of Intensive Coton Development Programme. The Intensive Cotton Development Programme envisages to enhance production and productivity through various extension/development activities such as transfer of technologies by field demonstration/farmer training, supply of certified seeds of varieties released during last fifteen years, use of water saving devices like sprinkler and drip system, establishment of seed delinting machines and various activities of pest control including setting up of bio-agent unit, surveillance, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), demonstration-cum-training supply of sprayers/pheromone trap/bio-agents.

The Ministry of Textile is nodal Ministry for implementation of Mini-Mission-III & Mini-Mission-IVThe Mini-Mission-III is meant for the development of marketing infrastructure by undertaking activities like construction of marketing yards, auction centres, grading facilities, laboratories for testing quality of cotton. The Mini-Mission-IV aims at upgradation and modernisation of ginning and pressing factories for the production of better quality cotton.

(c): For the current year, namely 2000-2001 a target of 145 lakh bales of 170 Kg. each has been fixed for the entire country, out of which 33 lakh bales have been fixed for Maharashtra. As the crop is still in a vegetative stage, it is too early to estimate the production.

(d): .In the Technology Mission on Cotton a number of incentives have been provided such as subsidy on certified seeds, distribution of farm implements particularly drip and sprinkler irrigation devices to make it attractive to the farmers.

(e): In view of the Technology Mission on Cotton launched by the Government, which takes into account not only production but marketing aspect of cotton also, there is no proposal to set up a Cotton Board.

(f); Does not arise.